IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.   (currently amended)   A method for providing operational protocols to medical diagnostic systems, the method comprising the steps of:

storing a protocol on a machine readable medium;

displaying user viewable indicia descriptive of the protocol at a medical diagnostic location;

selecting the protocol via a user interface;

verifying a subscription status for the diagnostic location; and

loading the protocol at the medical diagnostic location from the machine readable medium.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the user viewable indicia include a textual description of the protocol.

3.   (canceled).

4.   (canceled).

5.   (currently amended)   The method of claim 4 1, comprising the further step of transmitting an authorization prompt to the medical diagnostic location based upon the verification of the subscription status.

6.   (currently amended)   The method of claim 4 1, comprising the further step of storing record data indicative of the selection and loading of the protocol.

7. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein the record data includes financial record data for invoicing the medical diagnostic location for the protocol.

8. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein the record data includes data representative of a time expiring subscription.

9. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of selecting the protocol includes selecting a graphical interface device of an on-screen menu.

10. (original) The method of claim 1, comprising the further step of transferring at least one configuration parameter based upon the protocol to a scanner controller for execution of the protocol.

11. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the machine readable medium includes a memory device remote from the medical diagnostic location.

12. (original) The method of claim 1, comprising the further step of accessing product configuration data representative of a hardware or software configuration of a medical diagnostic system, and displaying the indicia based upon the configuration data.

13. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the indicia are sortable by image parameters.

14. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the protocol includes data for filming, viewing, reconstructing or processing images reconstructed from image data.

15: (canceled).

16. (canceled).

17. (canceled).

18. (canceled).

19. (canceled).

20. (canceled).

21. (canceled).

22. (canceled).

23. (currently amended)   A method for providing an operational protocol for a medical diagnostic system, the method comprising the steps of:

storing the protocol on a machine readable medium;

displaying indicia descriptive of the protocol in a protocol menu of a user interface;

selecting the protocol from the menu; and

verifying a subscription status thereby allowing access to the protocol; and

transmitting data defining at least one operational parameter from the machine readable medium to a system controller for execution of the protocol.

24. (original)   The method of claim 23, wherein the indicia include a textual description of the protocol.

25. (canceled).

26.   (original)   The method of claim 23, wherein the step of selecting includes actuation of a graphical button on an on-screen display.

27.   (original)   The method of claim 23, comprising the further steps of establishing a network link between the diagnostic system and a remote service facility and transferring a description of the protocol from the service facility to the diagnostic system for display in the menu.

28.   (original)   The method of claim 23, comprising the further steps of establishing a network link between the diagnostic system and a remote service facility and transferring data defining the protocol from the service facility to the diagnostic system in response to selection of the protocol from the menu.

29.   (canceled).

30.   (canceled).

31.   (canceled).

32.   (canceled).

33.   (canceled).

34.   (canceled).

35.   (canceled).

36.   (canceled).

37.   (canceled).

38.   (canceled).

39.   (canceled).

40.   (canceled).

41.   (currently amended)   A method for obtaining an operational protocol in a medical diagnostic system, the method comprising the steps of:

viewing a protocol list on a user interface at the medical diagnostic system;

selecting a desired protocol from the list;

establishing a network link with a remote protocol library;

verifying a subscription status for access to the protocol;

accessing data from the protocol library defining the desired protocol; and

transmitting the data from the library to the diagnostic system.

42.   (original)   The method of claim 41, wherein the library includes protocols for a plurality of diagnostic system modalities, and wherein the protocol list includes only protocols for a modality of the medical diagnostic system.

43.   (original)   The method of claim 41, comprising the further step of transmitting data descriptive of the protocol to the medical diagnostic system for addition to the protocol list.

44.   (original)   The method of claim 41, comprising the further step of authorizing a fee for the protocol.

45.   (original)   The method of claim 44, comprising the further step of updating a fee file in response to authorization of the fee.

46.   (currently amended)   A system for providing operational protocols to a plurality of medical diagnostic scanners, the system comprising:

at least one storage device for storing data defining a first modality protocol and a second modality protocol;

a license module for verifying a subscription status regarding the first and second protocols;

a messaging module for formulating messages containing data descriptive of the first and the second modality protocols; and

communications circuitry for establishing network links to first and second modality diagnostic systems and for transmitting data descriptive of the first modality protocol to the first modality diagnostic system and data descriptive of the second modality protocol to the second modality diagnostic system.

47.   (original)   The system of claim 46, the network links to the first and second modality diagnostic systems are initiated by the communications circuitry.

48.   (original)   The system of claim 46, wherein the first modality is a magnetic resonance imaging modality.

49.   (original)   The system of claim 46, wherein the first modality is a computed tomography imaging modality.

50.   (original)   The system of claim 46, wherein the first modality is an x-ray imaging modality.

51.   (currently amended)   A method for providing an operational protocol for a medical diagnostic system, the method comprising the steps of:

storing the protocol on a machine readable medium;

verifying a subscription status for access to the protocol;

transmitting a description of the protocol to a medical diagnostic system; and

displaying the description of the protocol at the medical diagnostic system.

52.   (original)   The method of claim 51, comprising the further step of transmitting data defining at least one operational parameter from the machine readable medium to a system controller for execution of the protocol.

53.   (original)   The method of claim 51, wherein the description includes a textual description of the protocol.

54.   (cancelled).

55.   (original)   The method of claim 51, further including the step of selecting the protocol from a protocol menu displayed at the diagnostic system.

56.   (original)   The method of claim 55, wherein the selecting step includes actuation of a graphical button on an on-screen display.

57.   (original)   The method of claim 51, comprising the further steps of establishing a network link between the diagnostic system and a remote service facility and transferring the description of the protocol from the service facility to the diagnostic system for display.

58.   (original)   The method of claim 51, comprising the further steps of establishing a network link between the diagnostic system and a remote service facility and

transferring data defining the protocol from the service facility to the diagnostic system in response to selection of the protocol at the diagnostic system.